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Letter dated 22 April 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the declaration of 2017 in the Republic of Uzbekistan as the Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests in Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68.

(*Signed*) Umid **Shadiev**
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Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

[Original: Russian]

State programme on the implementation of the Strategy of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan in five priority development areas between 2017 and 2021 during the Year of dialogue with the people and of promotion of human interests

In the years since independence, comprehensive measures have been taken in Uzbekistan to build a democratic State governed by the rule of law and a strong civil society, to develop an economy based on free market relations and prioritizing private ownership, to create the conditions for the Uzbek people to lead peaceful and successful lives and to earn the Republic of Uzbekistan a worthy place in the international arena.

Extensive reforms undertaken in the years since independence have laid a solid foundation for national statehood and sovereignty, security and the rule of law, the inviolability of State borders, the supremacy of the rule of law, human rights and freedoms, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance in society, and have brought about a decent standard of living for the population and the fulfilment of people's creative potential.

The rejection of a command economy, the gradual implementation of market reforms and the adoption of a prudent monetary policy have led to macroeconomic stability, rapid economic growth, control of inflation within forecasted limits, the creation of new opportunities and an enabling environment for the development of small businesses, private entrepreneurship and private farming.

Nevertheless, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the country's development over the previous period, and given the changing state of the global economy in the face of globalization and increased competition, it has become necessary to devise and realise fundamentally new ideas and principles about sustainable and innovative development.

After collecting suggestions, analysing them in depth and consolidating them, and with the aim of comprehensively improving the effectiveness of reforms, creating the conditions for the universal and accelerated development of the State and society, modernizing the country in priority areas and liberalizing all spheres of life, the President of Uzbekistan issued decree No. UP-4947 of 7 February 2017 approving:

- The Strategy of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan in five priority development areas between 2017 and 2021;
- The State programme on the implementation of the Strategy of Action during the Year of dialogue with the people and of promotion of human interests.

Concepts of the country's political, socioeconomic, cultural and humanitarian development lay at the root of the Strategy of Action, as the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. S. M. Mirziyoyev, conveyed during the election campaign and numerous meetings with the general public and with representatives of the business community and State agencies.

The purpose of the Strategy of Action is to comprehensively improve the effectiveness of reforms, create the conditions for the universal and accelerated

development of the State and society, modernize the country and liberalize all spheres of life

Five specific priorities of the country's development were identified:

1. Development of the State and society;

2. Ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law and further reform of the judicial and legal system;

3. Development and liberalization of the economy;

4. Improvement of social services;

5. Ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuing a prudent, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy.

Each of these priorities includes specific areas in which to deepen reforms and changes within the country.

The Strategy of Action is scheduled to be implemented in five stages, for each of which a separate annual state implementation programme will be approved, in accordance with the theme announced for that year.

The first priority of the State programme, the development of the State and society, envisages a more pronounced role for the Oliy Majlis in the system of State power, significant improvements of the quality of law-making and a more substantial role for political parties in the life of the State.

There are plans to strengthen State governance, primarily by reforming public service, scaling down State regulation of the economy and developing modern forms of mutually beneficial public-private partnerships and a system of e-government.

One of the most important and topical aspects of the State programme is effective dialogue with the people. This aspect covers plans to strengthen public oversight, further enhance the importance of non-governmental and non-profit organizations and the media and increase the role of the mahalla in public life.

The second priority of the State programme comprises measures to ensure the supremacy of the rule of law and genuine independence of the courts. There are plans to establish a supreme judicial council responsible for ensuring the independence of judges in decision-making, create a professional corps of judges and carry out measures to protect the rights and legitimate interests of judges.

There are also proposals to increase the specialization of the courts and strengthen their structure by establishing administrative courts and regional courts of appeal within the system of economic courts and establishing the post of assistant judge.

Plans have been made to improve procedural law and expand the powers of higher courts to independently tackle deficiencies in lower courts and hand down final judgments.

This priority also includes the implementation of measures to establish direct dialogue between the people, on the one hand, and the heads of law enforcement and monitoring bodies, State and economic governance bodies and local authorities, on the other hand; facilitate the public's access to these bodies; and ensure that reports and communications on violations of the rights and freedoms of individuals and legal entities are received more swiftly.

Special attention will be devoted to the crime prevention system and to fundamental improvements to the activities of bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that combat crime and protect law and order.

This priority also includes the drafting of a blueprint for further improvement of criminal law and criminal procedural legislation between 2018 and 2021; enhancement of the system for training, selecting and assigning staff of judicial, law enforcement and monitoring bodies; consistent analysis of communications and regular publication of the results; development of the legal profession; and reform of the notary system and civil registry offices.

The measures listed under the third priority, development and liberalization of the economy, are designed to stabilize the national currency and prices, gradually phase in modern market mechanisms of currency management, expand the revenue base of local government budgets, build foreign economic ties, introduce modern technologies for the production of goods and materials for export, develop transport and logistics infrastructure, improve the investment climate in order to promote entrepreneurship and attract foreign investors, enhance tax administration, incorporate modern principles and mechanisms for the regulation of banking activities, develop diversified farming enterprises and accelerate the development of the tourist industry.

This priority also includes measures to protect private property and the financial markets, modernize agriculture, develop the jewellery industry and prepare independent Uzbek companies for initial public offerings in major foreign stock exchanges.

Between 2017 and 2021, sector-specific programmes are planned, comprising a total of 649 investment projects worth US$ 40 billion. Production of industrial goods over the next five years is consequently set to grow by a factor of 1.5, increasing its share of the gross domestic product from 33.6 per cent to 36 per cent and its share of the manufacturing industry from 80 per cent to 85 per cent.

The fourth priority, improvement of social services, entails measures to boost employment, improve the social protection system and public health care, develop and upgrade road transport and communications and social infrastructure, improve the supply of energy and gas and the quality of social assistance provided to vulnerable strata of the population, elevate the status of women in public and political life, reform health care, ensure access to preschool education, raise standards and develop secondary general, secondary vocational and higher education.

Specifically, it provides for the unrestricted implementation of employment programmes to create 256,400 jobs through the implementation of some 25,000 investment projects for comprehensive local development. In regions with the highest unemployment rate, 46,800 new jobs are projected to be created and 10,000 loans granted to graduates of educational institutions for start-up entrepreneurship.

Initiatives to support senior citizens, streamline the process for granting social benefits and reform health care have also been included. There are plans to refurbish 78 district health centres and 7 municipal and 2 regional general medical centres and to provide emergency medical services through 1,200 special-purpose vehicle units.

In rural areas, construction is planned of 15,000 affordable retirement homes, 415 kilometres of water pipes, 316 kilometres of gas pipes and 291 kilometres of local roads. To improve the quality of public transport services, 86 new bus lines are to be introduced and 537 modern buses are to be procured.

The fifth priority, ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuing a prudent, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy, covers the implementation of measures to protect the constitutional order, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Uzbekistan, upgrade information systems and regulations in the area of cybersecurity, set up and develop an emergency warning system, mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster and draft a blueprint of priority policy areas in inter-ethnic relations and a blueprint for State policy in religious affairs.

There are also plans to draw up road maps on the development of cooperation with foreign partners in the political and diplomatic spheres and the comprehensive development and expansion of cooperation between Uzbekistan and foreign partners in trade, economic affairs, investment, technology and finance in 2017.

A total of 37.7 trillion sum and US$ 8.3 billion will be earmarked for the implementation of all of the initiatives of the State programme referred to above.

The National Commission on the Implementation of the Strategy of Action, presided over by the President of Uzbekistan, is being established by decree to identify strategic priorities of the country's development over the next five years.

Following the initiative of public and State organizations, an order by the Head of State decreed the establishment in Tashkent of a development strategy centre for the implementation of the Strategy of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan in five priority development areas between 2017 and 2021 and also the State programme for the Year of dialogue with the people and of promotion of human interests.

Commissions established for each of the five priorities of the Strategy of Action are entrusted with ensuring that the measures included in the State programme are implemented fully, in a timely fashion and to a high standard.

These commissions are responsible not only for the execution of the tasks mentioned above, but also for the drafting of the corresponding annual State programmes for the implementation of the Strategy of Action between 2018 and 2021.

Implementation of the Strategy of Action will provide strong impetus to Uzbekistan's steady progress in reforming and modernizing the country, building a democratic society governed by the rule of law, with a well-developed market economy and strong civil society, and ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law, security and law and order, inviolability of State borders, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance within society.